

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
**FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE**  
WASHINGTON, DC

---

<h1 style="margin: 0;">FSIS NOTICE</h1>	22-05	4/13/2005
---	-------	-----------

---

**POULTRY CHILLING REQUIREMENTS FOR READY-TO-COOK EVISCERATED  
PRODUCTS HELD IN SLAUGHTER ESTABLISHMENTS FOR MORE THAN 24  
HOURS**

The purpose of this notice is to clarify for inspection program personnel the coverage of 9 CFR 381.66(b)(1). Section 381.66(b)(1) establishes general chilling requirements for all poultry, except ratites, that has been slaughtered and eviscerated under the Poultry Products Inspection Act in an official establishment. This notice makes clear that if packaged product is held at the official establishment at which the poultry was slaughtered for more than 24 hours, the room in which the product is held must be kept at a temperature of 36 °F or lower.

Several years ago, internal FSIS guidance held that the requirements regarding room holding temperature in 9 CFR 381.66(b)(1) covered all poultry carcasses and parts in official slaughter and processing establishments, including boneless poultry in combos and diced, cooked poultry. There have been continuing questions about this guidance. As a result, FSIS has reexamined and reconsidered the language of 9 CFR 381.66(b)(1).

The requirement in the regulations for a room temperature of 36 °F or lower does not apply to all establishments. The requirement only applies to poultry slaughter establishments that hold the birds for more than 24 hours. The requirement does not apply to processing establishments, cold storage facilities, or other poultry holding or handling establishments, which nonetheless have an obligation to hold the poultry under sanitary conditions that will ensure its safety and wholesomeness. All inspection program personnel should be aware of this clarification.

An establishment's hazard analysis should identify the food safety hazards reasonably likely to occur in the production of poultry products.

---

<b>DISTRIBUTION:</b> Inspection Offices; T/A Inspectors; Plant Mgt; T/A Plant Mgt; TRA; ABB; TSC; Import Offices	<b>NOTICE EXPIRES:</b> 5/1/2006	<b>OPI:</b> OPPED
--	---------------------------------	-------------------

**NOTE:** The above policy also applies to 9 CFR 381.66(f)(1).

This FSIS notice does not add new verification procedures for inspection program personnel to perform.

*/s/ Philip S. Derfler*

Assistant Administrator  
Office of Policy, Program, and Employee Development